(b) whether it is also a fact that we still import edible oils for making up the shortage in domestic output and if so, how Government has presumed that there will be exportable surplus of edible oils ;

(c) wheher diverting this essential commodity for exports will adversely affect the domestic prices to the detriment of the consumer; and

(d) whether Government would reconsider its decision and keep the edible oils in the negative list, till such time that the domestic demands are fully met ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) : The import of edible oils in limited quantities is resorted to supplement the indigeneous supplies at a time of higher demand and to contain the rise in their prices in the country. The Government considered it expedient to allow export of selected edible oils so as to develop export market which takes time. Because of the disparity in the domestic and international prices of edible oils, exports of edible oil in reality is likely to be not significant enough to affect the interest of the domestic consumers.

(d) Government will take appropriate remedial steps as and when the situation demands.

EXPORT OF EDIBLE OILS

2294. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have since decided to export edible oils ;

(b) if so, the details of the amount, itemwise likely to be exported ;

(c) whether the country is in a position to meet the domestic requirement from the internal production before exporting it; and

(d) if not, the reasons for deciding to export edible oils ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has recently permitted export of edible oils (except groundnut oil) in consumer packs upto 5 kg. It is understood that export of edible oils namely mustard oil, sesame oil is yet to materialise.

(c) and (d) While there seems to be some gap between domestic requirement and availability of edible oils from internal production, Government has considered it expedient to allow export of selected edible oils so as to develop export market which takes time. Because of the disparity in the domestic and international prices of edible oils, the quantity that may be exported is expected to be insignificant. Government will take appropriate remedial steps as and when the situation demands.

CALCULATION OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

2295. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the price index of commodities of daily use is calculated at wholesale price level ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that prices at the retail price level concern most to a common man ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not calculating price index at retail price level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Inflation is measured at the